

I voted Yes on H.R. 444, the Require a PLAN Act.

The Require a PLAN Act would require the President, if his budget submission for Fiscal Year 2014 fails to achieve balance in any year in the plan's 10-year budget window, to submit by April 1, 2013 a supplemental budget that shows when and how a balanced budget would eventually be reached. The supplemental budget would not need to balance within 10 years, but would need to identify a year in which it would eventually balance.

Current law requires the President to submit a budget each year on the first Monday in February. The Administration has failed to submit an on-time budget four out of the last five years, and the President stated on January 11 that he would not submit his budget on time again this year. Additionally, the President has not yet submitted a budget to Congress which ever achieves balance.

With a national debt now totaling more than \$16 trillion, I supported this bill because it is important that the White House join Congress in seriously considering plans that put our nation on a path to balance. Controlling our long-term deficits is critical to maintaining our standard of living and working to achieve greater prosperity and a thriving middle class.

I am hopeful that this legislation will foster greater bipartisan cooperation on fiscally responsible deficit reduction plans. For that reason, I supported a bipartisan amendment to the bill which suggests that the President consider using the Simpson-Bowles deficit reduction plan which he commissioned as the basis for his supplemental budget.

The bill was approved by a vote of 253 – 167.